



Triangle  
Coalition  
for  
Science  
and  
Technology  
Education

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August 4, 1998

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**Walter L. Purdy**

Chairman William Kennard  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20036

RE: Comments of Triangle Coalition  
CC: Docket No. 98-121

Dear Chairman Kennard:

BellSouth has petitioned the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for permission to provide long distance service to its local customers in Louisiana. The Triangle Coalition strongly believes that with the adoption of the FCC rules to extend Universal Service to schools, libraries and rural Health Facilities that is in the interest of these institutions that a strong competitive environment exist among potential service providers.

The Louisiana Public Service Commission unanimously agreed that BellSouth has met the requirements of the Telecommunications Act in opening up its markets to local competition. The Triangle Coalition believes that BellSouth's entry into the market will enhance competition and may contribute to lower rates for services which would give greater value to the discounts to be offered to schools. Schools are consumers, and with the new universal rules schools and libraries have the potential to become even larger customers of advanced telecommunications services.

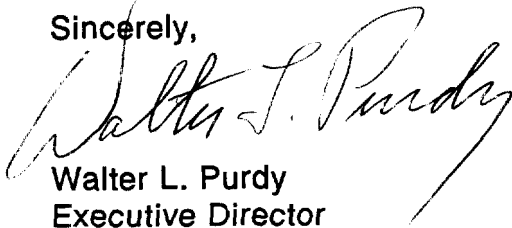
Increased competition will mean new choices, hopefully more competitive rates and added incentives to the existing service providers to make the infrastructure investments necessary to bring a full range of advanced telecommunications applications to schools. These services are essential if students are to develop the knowledge and skills these same companies assert are required in today's marketplace.

Allowing BellSouth to offer long distance service in Louisiana will ensure that the company has sufficient incentives to upgrade the local telephone network and bring advanced telecommunications services to communities it serves, including schools and libraries, across the state.

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BellSouth's entry into the competitive long distance market will enhance the opportunity to achieve the promised benefits of the Telecommunications Act and provide the range of choices needed by schools in the years ahead. We ask that the FCC support BellSouth's entrance into long distance and that the Commission move quickly to approve BellSouth's petition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Walter L. Purdy". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Walter L. Purdy  
Executive Director